

## How to Comment Effectively

To be most effective, comments should be specific and factual. Remember, the purpose of scoping is to define the scope of the analysis, so comments should focus on the range of alternatives, including any recommended alternative, resource or human communities most likely to be affected by the proposal, and the kinds of impacts to the environment that should be evaluated in the Upper Las Vegas Wash Conservation Transfer Area Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

The format you choose is up to you. Comment forms are available, but not required. You don't need to type your comments as long as they are easy to read. Send them by mail, email, or hand-deliver them before the public scoping period ends on August 20, 2007.

Below are several tips for making effective comments.

- Be brief so the reviewer won't miss the point of your comment.
- Be specific so the reviewer clearly understands your concerns. Say, "I am concerned about how this will affect the protection of paleontological resources..." rather than just saying, "Don't do this."
- Know your subject so that your comments are both focused and accurate.
- State the facts and back them up where possible. Be sure to reveal your sources of information to help make your point.
- Be honest and realistic. Distortions of facts or misstatements may cause the reviewer to question the accuracy of your other statements. Requests that are not legal or feasible also reduce the credibility of your comments.
- Be polite. Even though you may be upset about a proposal, try to state your opinion objectively. Communication is increased by extending the same courtesies to agency staff that you expect from them.